

A Plea for
The American Philosophical
Society and its Need of a
New Building to be known
as "Franklin House"



"The experience of ages shows that
improvements of a public nature are best
carried on by societies of liberal and
ingenious men joining their labours,
without regard to nation, sect or party,
in one grand pursuit."

From the Charter of the Society. Dated March 15, 1780





BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

President of the Society 1769-1790

Painted by Charles Willson Peale

After D. Martin


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Lewis, John Frederick

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HE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY is the oldest learned Society in America and one of the oldest in the world. It originated in Franklin's famous "Junto," a club of scientific men formed in 1727, and was formally organized under the name of "The American Philosophical Society" as early as 1743. Upon January 2, 1769, it united with the old "Junto" which had still maintained its existence and whose views and ends were the same, to wit: "the advancement of Useful Knowledge," under the new title of "The American Philosophical Society Held at Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge." With this name the Society was incorporated, "by the Representatives of the freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met * * * Wednesday, the 15th day of March, Anno Domini 1780"—9 years before the organization of the Government of the United States under the Constitution.

This ancient Charter declared that the objects of the Society should be "The prosecution and advancement of all useful branches of knowledge, for the benefit of their country and mankind," and placed the Society under the special care of the State by providing that the Society's chief officer—its Patron—"shall be His Excellency, the President of the Supreme Executive Council of this Commonwealth" (now the Governor).

The Charter of 1780 was followed by an Act of Assembly of March 28, 1785, granting the Society

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

"part of the State House Square" as "a lot of ground suitable and convenient for erecting a hall and other buildings for their accommodation." The preamble of this act recited:

"Whereas it is expedient and proper to give all due encouragement to Societies established for the purpose of advancing the arts and sciences and promulgating useful knowledge, and whereas it hath been represented to us by the incorporated Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia, that for the better answering the purpose of their institution it is necessary that they should have a public hall, library and other accommodation," and the Act thereupon granted to the Society a lot on the West side of Fifth Street beginning at a point 96 feet southward from Chestnut Street, being 70 feet front on Fifth Street and 50 feet deep.

Upon this lot the Society erected its Hall ready for occupancy in November 1789, but as years rolled on, its library and collections increased so that the building then erected became inadequate for the Society's "accommodation." The old building was altered several times, until finally the whole character of its interior and exterior was changed in 1890, and its original individuality destroyed by the addition of a third story, which marred it architecturally, but which was absolutely necessary to house its increasing library and collections. The reconstructed building has itself since become entirely inadequate and can no longer be said, in the words of the Act of 1780, to be "suitable and convenient" for the Society's purposes.



THOMAS JEFFERSON
President of the Society 1797-1814
Painted by Thomas Sully

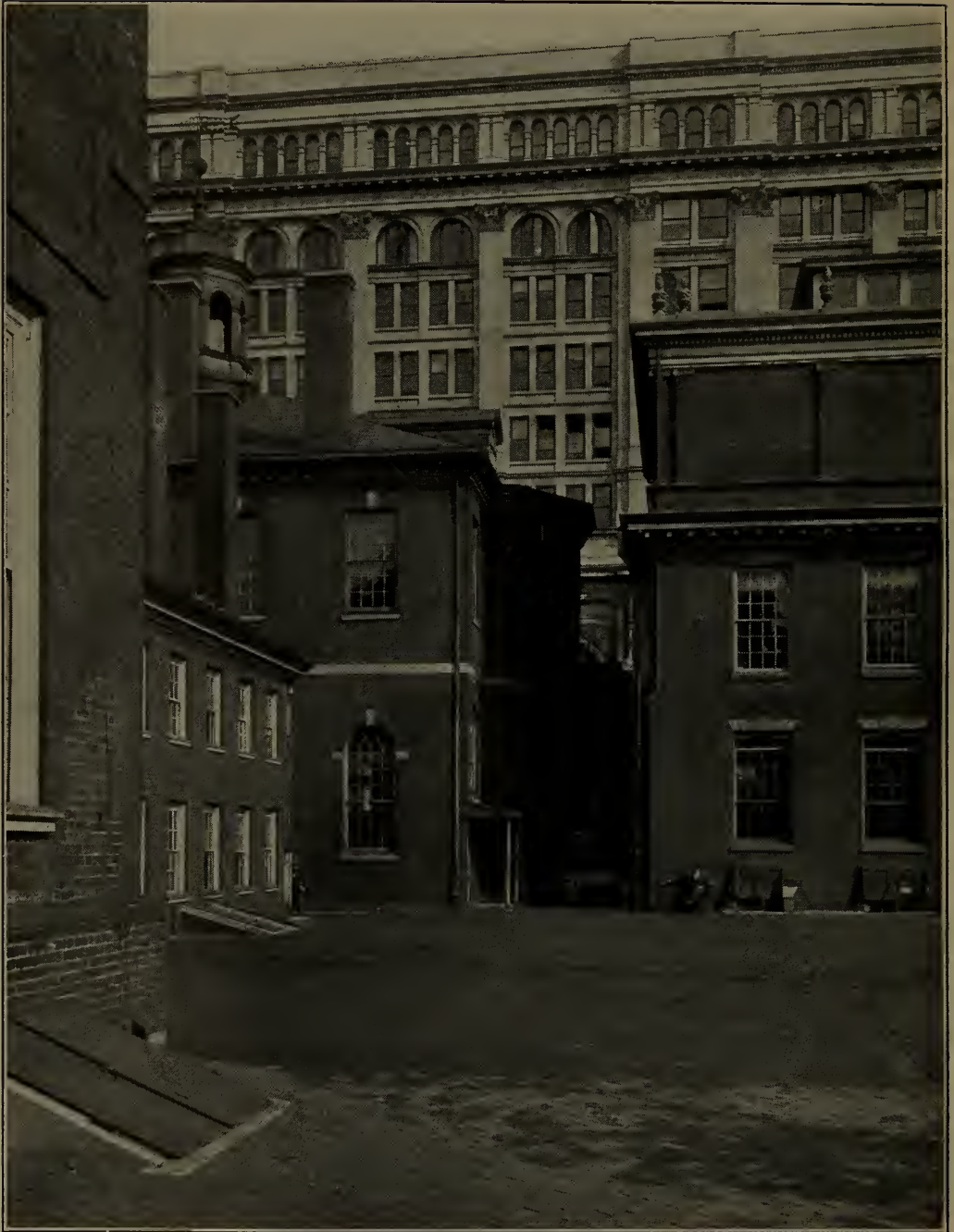
A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

For a number of years past it has been evident that the Society must move. While its location was formerly in the center of the city, it is now too far East. The surrounding neighborhood has entirely changed in character. Almost all other venerable institutions have moved away. Its small lot, less in area than many city dwellings, cannot and ought not to be enlarged. Nor can its present building be replaced by a skyscraper to meet its need for more room. Either course would mar the hallowed spot of which its lot is a part, and detract from the dignity of Independence Hall—the building of all others on the Continent most dear to every true American heart.

The Society's building has been examined by two architects acting independently and they have both declared it unsafe to bear further weight. Over ten thousand volumes belonging to its library are now stored in a Trust Company's vault and thus made inaccessible to the public entitled to use them.

The building is so close to the others upon the Old State House Square, including the "State House" itself, that with its imposed third story and large wooden skylight or lantern, with its wooden windows and wooden frames, and inflammable contents, it is a constant menace to their safety. Should a fire start in the Society's building (it is not fireproof and contains over sixty thousand books), and should the wind happen to be from the South, the danger of the fire spreading to the North and Northwest is too manifest to be lightly disregarded. The accompanying photograph shows a

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"



Independence Hall

Old United States Supreme Court Building
Showing their Dangerous Proximity

Hall of the Society

part of Independence Hall to the left, part of the Society's building to the right, and in the center part of the building used by the Supreme Court of the United States from 1791 to 1800.

The membership of the Society has included men of the greatest eminence in literature, science and art, which the country has produced. Beginning with Benjamin Franklin, its first President after the union of 1769, it has included Jefferson as another President, Washington, Rittenhouse, Bartram, Hamilton, Witherspoon, McKean, Muhlenberg, Rush, Rumford, Priestley, Heckewelder, Conyngham, Wistar, Winthrop and many besides famous in Colonial, Revolutionary and later days. These men, and others for generations after them, gathered manuscripts, books, prints, paintings and relics of all kinds connected with the rise and progress of the City, State and Nation, and presented them to the Society, so that now it can safely be said that its library and collections must be consulted by any real student of American History.

Its large library of over sixty thousand volumes contains valuable works not to be found elsewhere in this country, and its system of exchange of publications with the other learned Societies of both continents enable those who visit its reading rooms to keep abreast with the last word in scientific thought throughout the world. In many respects its library is unique. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to duplicate. In the Union Check list of Serials to be found in the various libraries of Philadelphia, it is

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & transient causes, and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, begun at a distant perished period & pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, & to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, & such is now the necessity which constrains them to expunge their former systems of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain, is a history of unremitting injuries and usurpations, among which appears no solitary fact to contradict the uniform tenor of the rest; but all have in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith yet unshaken by falsehood.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate & pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has neglected utterly to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature; a right inestimable to them, & formidable to tyrants only.

shown that this venerable institution owns 2083 titles of different serial publications, and of this number 764, 36-7/10 of the total, are not to be found in any other library in Philadelphia.



Jefferson's Chair, in which he wrote the Declaration of Independence

The Society's manuscripts and early American imprints cannot be briefly enumerated.

It includes Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence in his own handwriting. This is the original autographic copy which Jefferson sent to Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, who interlined the

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. A DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former System of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly violated to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inalienable to them, and formidable to Tyranny only.

He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, susceptible of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States, for that Purpose obtruding the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass enactments to encourage their Migration hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriation of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislature.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

- For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;
- For granting them, by a mock Trial, Punishment for any Misdemeanors which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;
- For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;
- For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;
- For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;
- For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;
- For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render us at once an Example and a Pattern of Tyranny;
- For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;
- For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, in the Words, treacherous large Armies of foreign Mercenaries, to complete the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with our confidence of Cruelty and Ferocity, mercilessly paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has captured and carried off our Citizens, taken Captive on the high Seas, to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brothers, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare is an unrelenting Destruction of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every Stage of this Oppression, we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every still crueler and more oppressive Tyranny, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

You have been warning in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by our Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Connections of this Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have urged them by the Blood of our common Ancestors to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Commerce and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which compels our Separation.

We therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of Right do. And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by ORDER of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST,
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DUNLAP.

First Imprint of the Declaration of Independence

amendments made by the Continental Congress. Lee had moved in the Congress June 7, 1776: "That these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states," but he was called home by intelligence of the dangerous illness of his wife, and could not serve on the Committee appointed to prepare the formal declaration. Jefferson on July 8th wrote Lee: "I enclose a copy of the Declaration of Independence as agreed to by the House, and also as originally framed. You will judge whether it is better or worse

for the critics." Lee replied: "The thing is in its nature so good, that no Cookery can spoil the Dish for the palates of Freemen."

With the single exception of the signed Declaration itself, this precious document stands unrivalled for historical and patriotic interest.

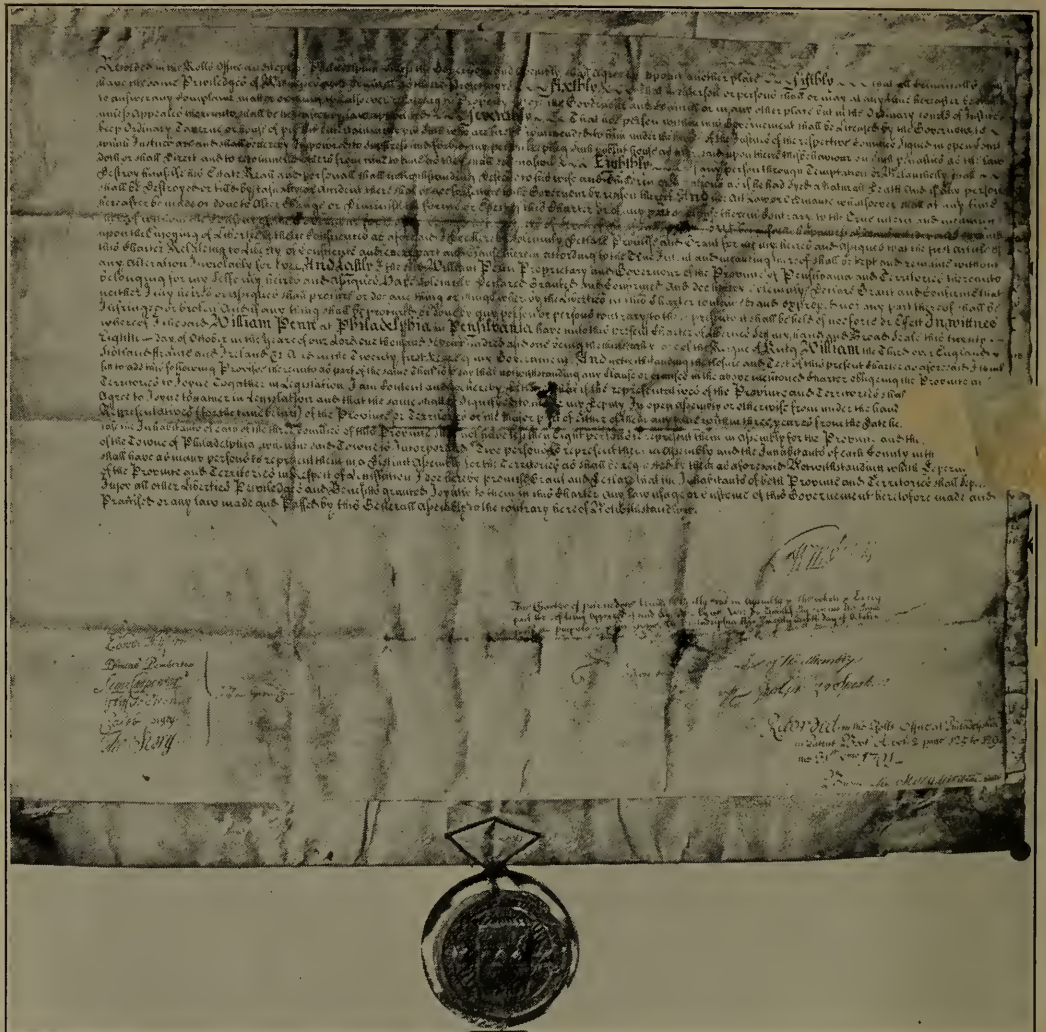
When the Declaration of Independence was signed, July 4, 1776, it was printed the same day in broadside form by order of the Continental Congress for immediate distribution to the heads of the Army, Councils of Safety, etc., for proclamation. This broadside is so scarce that no record can be found of its public sale. The Society owns one in beautiful condition. It was from this broadside that the Declaration was read to the public in the State House Square, July 8, 1776, by John Nixon on behalf of William Dewees, the Sheriff of Philadelphia, from the platform of the temporary observatory which had been erected by the American Philosophical Society to observe the transit of Venus in June 1769.

The Society also owns the quaint old arm chair upon which Jefferson sat while he composed the Declaration.

It has the original Charter of Privileges granted the Colonists by William Penn in 1701—the fundamental basis for the rights of every citizen of Pennsylvania, even as those rights exist to-day.

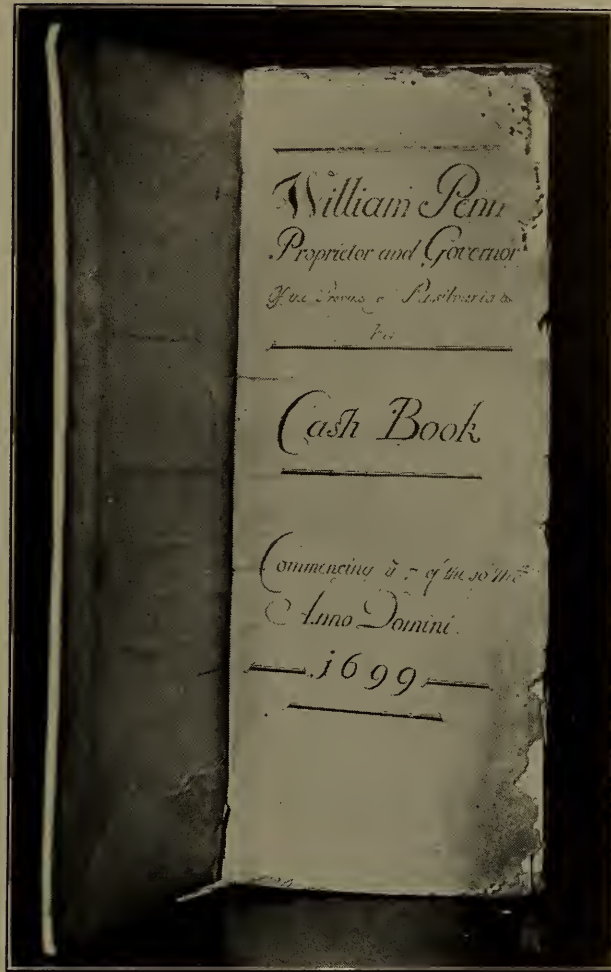
It has Penn's Cash Book and many of his important papers, as well as those belonging to his Secretary, James Logan.

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"



Charter of Privileges of Pennsylvania—1701

It has Penn's Commission, to "my Trusty and Loving Friend Thomas Lloyd, President of ye same," committing to the Council all his powers as Proprietary during his first visit to England, "given at Philadelphia ye Sixth day of ye Sixth Month, One Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty four, being ye Thirty Sixth year of ye King's Reign and ye Fourth of my Government," and which contains an endorsement never

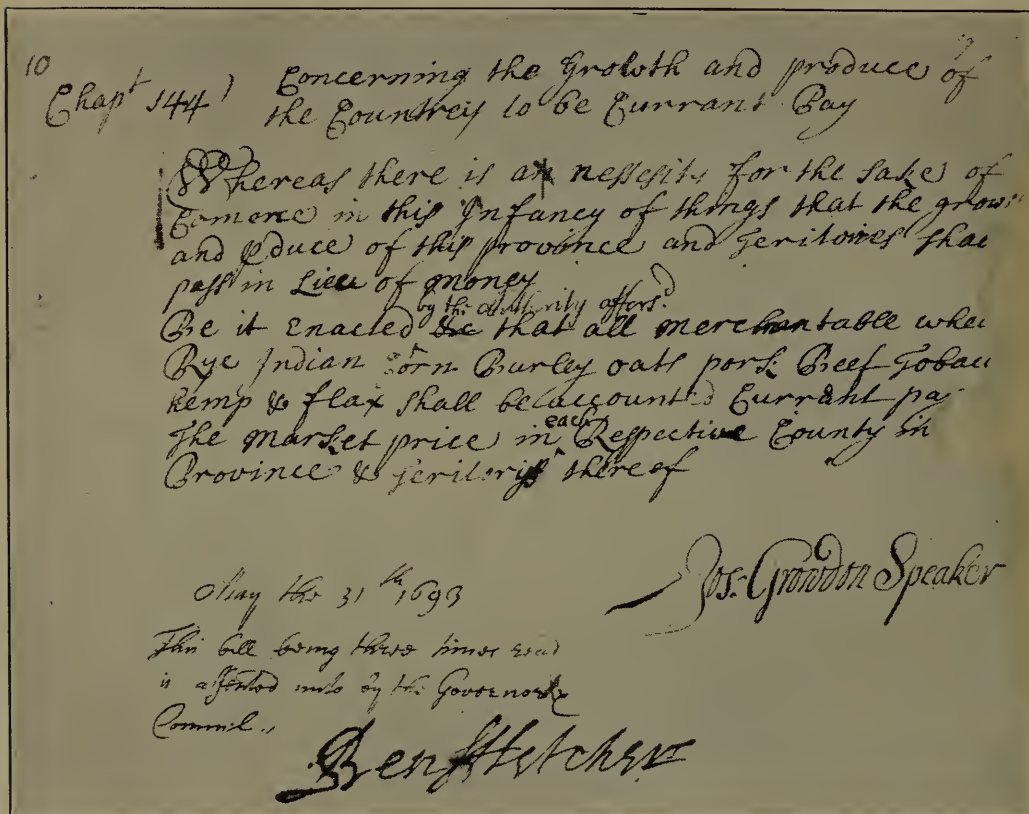


Penn's Cash Book

recorded and probably intended not to be shown to the Council unless the necessity should arise, limiting this cession of power, "chiefly as chuseing officers, &c. intending yt all law yt shall or may be made should receive and have my further determination, confirmation and consent or else to be voyd in themselves." This was endorsed when Penn was on board "the Ketch Endeavour" while she was lying in the Delaware River.

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

The Society has a manuscript volume of the original or certified copies of the Laws of Pennsylvania prior to 1700—containing the only known copy of some of the earliest laws.



Original Copy of a Law of Pennsylvania of 1693

It has the original Manuscript Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania from 1693 to 1716 in three volumes.

It has two volumes of early documents relating to the Province including letters to and from William Penn with much valuable material relating to the boundary controversy between Penn and Lord Baltimore; including the minutes of the Commissioners to

I
Province
of
Pennsylvania
and
County of Monroe
Lancaster

Minutes of Council in the Assembly
Since R^r. H^r. R^r. W^t. Maria Angell Esq^r &c
Att a Council held at Philadelphia
On Monday the 1st of May 1693

Present Hon^{ble} Ex^{or} Benjamin F. Edwards
 Wm. Marchant Esq^r & J^{rs} Governor
 Andrew Robeson } Laurence Cook
 Robert Turner } Esq^r Wm. Calway } Esq^r
 Chas. Robinson } Wm. Perkins }

The persons returned for Representatives 3^d being in Number twenty, by four for the County of Philadelphia, & three for the County of Bucks, five for the County of Chester, four for the County of New Castle, three for the County of Delaware, three for the County of Lancaster, & one for the County of York, came to wait upon his Excellency in Council and were admitted.

Use of the tool by oath, appointment of parliament
to be taken in stead of the oath of allegiance and
Supremacy, & subscription to the 39 articles
and subscription to the doctrine of the 39 articles, profession of
the Christian faith &c.

After writing this I did not go to the post
 post office: ?

[illegible]

The two birds by the garden door & I rode to
 the bridge, then where the garden continued to say

You mention You are by the terms of your contract
relating to Assembly that you are all obliged before
you can or shall go to Pitt to take up seats pro=
for ^{the} ~~your~~ ^{their} cause - yet I take some latitude in my
instructions & no such enables me to admit one to sit

in

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

To Messrs. Stockley & Physick

22^d March 1763 The Surveyors this day
setting out to resume their work on the line
between Maryland & Pennsylvania have
requested to see that there were his warranting
one hundred and fifty pounds. which I am
I acknowledge to have received as witness
my hand this 22^d March 1763

Richard Peters

Received at Philad. the 11th January 1764 of Richard
Stockley Esq. One hundred Pounds on Acct. of Expenses
in running the Divisional Line between Maryland and
Pennsylvania.

£100. 0. 0

Joseph Shippen Jr

Receipt for Surveying Mason and Dixon's Line

determine the boundary line between Pennsylvania and Maryland, the so-called Mason and Dixon line of 1760-1768; many manuscripts relating to the claims of the State of Connecticut in the Wyoming Valley so long a matter of debate, contention and even warfare; a list of Penn's quit rents from 1688 to 1689; a set of the Indian Treaties of Pennsylvania and many manuscripts relating to Indian affairs in the colonies, including several Indian vocabularies prepared by Thomas Jefferson and others.

It has a large collection of the original printed Acts of Parliament leading up to and causing the

Revolution, and many manuscripts relating to the Stamp Act and Non-Importation Agreement of the merchants in the different Colonies.

*A Message from the Governor to the Assembly,
Gentlemen*

The Secretary will lay before you an Extract of a Letter received last Night by Express from Lord Loudon. You will be pleased to observe how much all the Colonies, and this Province in particular, are exposed to the immediate Attacks of a successful and implacable Enemy. If the Country is to be saved, it must be by the Dispatch and Vigour of your Resolutions; and I make no doubt, but that you will cheerfully grant such Supplies as the Emergency of this important Service requires. May Heaven prosper your Councils; and permit me to remind you, it is your Duty to enable me to protect the People, and support his Majesty's Government at this most critical Conjuncture.

I also lay before you some Letters from the Frontiers, where a speedy Reinforcement is absolutely necessary to save all from Ruin.

Philad^a 27th August
1756. *William Denny*

Message from Governor Denny—1756

The Society has a large and most interesting and valuable collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides and imprints relating to the entire Colonial and Revolutionary Period. It published a Calendar of part of

Boston Aug. 27 1778

Dear Sir

Your Letter of 21. June last, to the late Committee of Merchants has been duly read. I have now to Inform you that the Merchants here have lately had a Meeting & given a Subscription which was agreed to immediately signed by the Merchants in general, wherein they engage to South each other as follows.

1st That they will not send for or Import from Great Britain either upon their own Accounts or when Commissioned by the Public any other Goods than what are already ordered for the Public Supply.

2nd That they will not send for or Import any kind of Goods or Merchandise from Great Britain either on their own Accounts or on Commission or any otherwise from the first of January 1779 to the first of January 1780, except Salt, Lead, Fish, Sticks of Lime, Soap, Drabs, Bone Meal, White Wine, &c. &c.

3rd That they will not purchase of any Factor or others any kind of goods & Imported from Great Britain from January 1779 to January 1780.

4th That they will not Import on their own Accounts or on Commission or purchase of any who shall Import from

from any other Colony in America from January 1779 to January 1780 any Tea, Glass, Paper or other Goods commonly Imported from Great Britain.

5th That they will not from & after the first of January 1779 Import into this Province any Tea, Opium, Glass, or Powder without, untill the said Importing Duties on these Articles are repaid.

The Merchants here have been for some time thoroughly convinced of the Importance & Necessity of this measure, & they have lately been employed in their efforts to carry it into effect from their Friends in England and have given it as their Opinion that such a procedure would

be most readily be attended with Success. I would say that it is to be regretted that the Petitions & Representations will be of little use with those who are holding the Opium, but make it their Interest & they will soon attend to them. I am sorry will bring Commission & Commission will increase and many of our Advocates. I would please to observe that the Merchants here have entered into this Agreement without any Inducement however at a time when uncommon measures are taking to prevent Parliamentary Appropriations from the several Governments on the Continent they cannot but persuade themselves that the Merchants in all the other Colonies are clearly convinced of the Necessity of Acting in the

the case of Slaves, they are confident therefore that the Merchants will go with cheerfully & unanimously to grant with us in this lawful, prudent, & necessary measure, especially when they consider that upon their concurrence that speedy concurrence greatly depends the success of the measures entered into by the Merchants of this General.

We are appointed a Committee by the Merchants to Enquire into the Merchants on the other Colonies relative to the Contingencies the Trade may at any time labour under I should be glad to hear from you as soon as the Merchants have come into any resolution relative to the subject of this Letter.

We are with respect
Your most Obedt. Servt.
Thomas Cushing
John Hancock
John Adams
John Ingham
Edward Everett
Wm Phillips
Dr. Barrett

Province of Massachusetts Bay May 26th 1774.

Gentlemen

By order of the House of Representatives of this Province, we inclose you an Act passed in the late Session of the British Parliament entitled 'An act to continue in such manner and for such time as are therein mentioned the landing and discharging, lading or Shipping of Goods Wares and Merchandise at the Town and within the Harbour of Boston in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in North America.'

We think that the Archives of Constantinople might be in vain searched for a parallel — To reason upon such an Act would be Idleness. You will doubtless judge every British American Colony deeply concerned in it, and contemplate, and determine upon it accordingly.

We are with great regards
your Friends & Fellow Countrymen

Thomas Hutchinson
Samuel Adams
Jas. Warren
The Governors
Joseph Moulton
Wm. Heath

To the Gentlemen the Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay in the House of Representatives in the City of Philadelphia

Boston's Reply to the Act Closing its Port

this material in 1900, which, though a mere index, fills a volume of over 250 pages. In this Calendar are indexed the letters of Brigadier-General George Weedon, to and from him during the Revolutionary War, including his Valley Forge Orderly Book; the Lee Papers, consisting of original letters to Richard Henry Lee and copies of letters from him; letters to

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

You will please to furnish me with a
 Return of all the stores which shall be in
 your department on the first day of every
 Month, and the places where they are to be
 made on from after that day on the particular
 Return from your Department can be collected
 and drawn into a General one. You will
 cause the same to be done by the Commissary
 of Stores in his department only.
 That so every in this place, to act at
 the verbal instructions given you in Philadelphia
 for countermanding the orders you may have
 issued in consequence of former instructions to
 you of the 10th Decemr last, except as far as
 relates to an Indian Expedition upon a further
 order, preparatory for which are to be presented
 agreeable to the directions which shall be received
 for that purpose from Major Genl. Stoddy.
 Though you are to proceed no further in providing
 Materials for the Vessels of force, the Articles which
 may be already procured are to be carefully deposited
 for future use in such manner as will best
 serve them from waste and loss.
 Given at New London March 6.
 with this 24th Feb 1779
 E. W. Washington

95 253
 To Major General Greene
 Quarter Master General
 I have given the Commissary General
 orders to buy in a Magazine of four Months
 provisions for twelve hundred Men at West Point,
 and another of the like quantity for one thousand
 Men at Lunenburg, both to be provided by
 the first day of May next and expenses of the
 quantities necessary for the subsistence of the
 troops in those quarters. I have directed him if
 possible, to draw his supplies for Lunenburg from
 the Storehouse of Virginia, and those for Lunenburg
 from the Magazine of Longwarrum. You will
 consult with him and afford him the necessary
 aid respecting the transportation.
 You will endeavour to obtain as soon
 as possible, and in as short a manner as the
 nature of the case will admit, a list of all
 the Vessels from the State of Longwarrum
 (formerly known as the Virginia) estimating
 the number of Men and quantity of provisions
 they are capable of carrying, and distinguishing
 public from private property, and those which
 may justly be supposed necessary and that those
 parts from which

Arthur Lee, his brother, and miscellaneous private and official papers during the period from 1766 to 1789; the Greene Papers, being letters to and from General Nathanael Greene during 1778, 1779 and 1780, while he was Quartermaster General of the Continental Army, which alone fill twelve volumes.

9

Sir,

I wish to recall your attention to the important matter recommended to your consideration some time ago - namely - the advisability of a Winters Campaign and practicability of an attack upon Philadelphia with the aid of a considerable body of Militia to be assembled at an appointed time and place - particular Reasons urge me to request your sentiments on this matter by the morning, and I shall expect to receive them accordingly by that time in writing. I am Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

Head Quarters
Decem^r 3^d 1777

G. Washington

Gen. Washington to Gen. Weedon

The Society has William Dunbar's manuscript "Description of his Exploration of the Red River in 1804-05;" and the original 18 note-books containing the Field Notes of Lewis and Clark's expedition for the exploration of the Northwest in 1804-06 deposited

1784; Priestley's manuscript of 1783; and Zeisberger's on the language of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians, 1816.

Not the least interesting of its possessions are the Society's own Minutes which are practically complete and continuous from the year 1750 to date, and afford material for a history of science in America which cannot be found elsewhere.

Of the papers of Benjamin Franklin, the Society owns about eighty per cent. of all the known originals. They are bound in upwards of one hundred volumes and their historical importance can be realized when it is remembered that Franklin was not only Agent of Pennsylvania in London, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, U. S. Minister to France, one of the Ministers Plenipotentiary who signed the Provisional Articles and the Definitive Treaty of Peace between the United States and Great Britain, and one of the framers of the Constitution of the United States, but also the leading scientist of his age, the originator of the first Fire Company in America, the first Public Library, the first Public Hospital and the first Academy, now the University of Pennsylvania.

He was the founder of the Society and its first President, and it is eminently proper that its contemplated future home should be known as "Franklin House," and be erected as a memorial to his public services to the Province and State of Pennsylvania, and to the Nation he loved so well.

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

My Dear Billy,

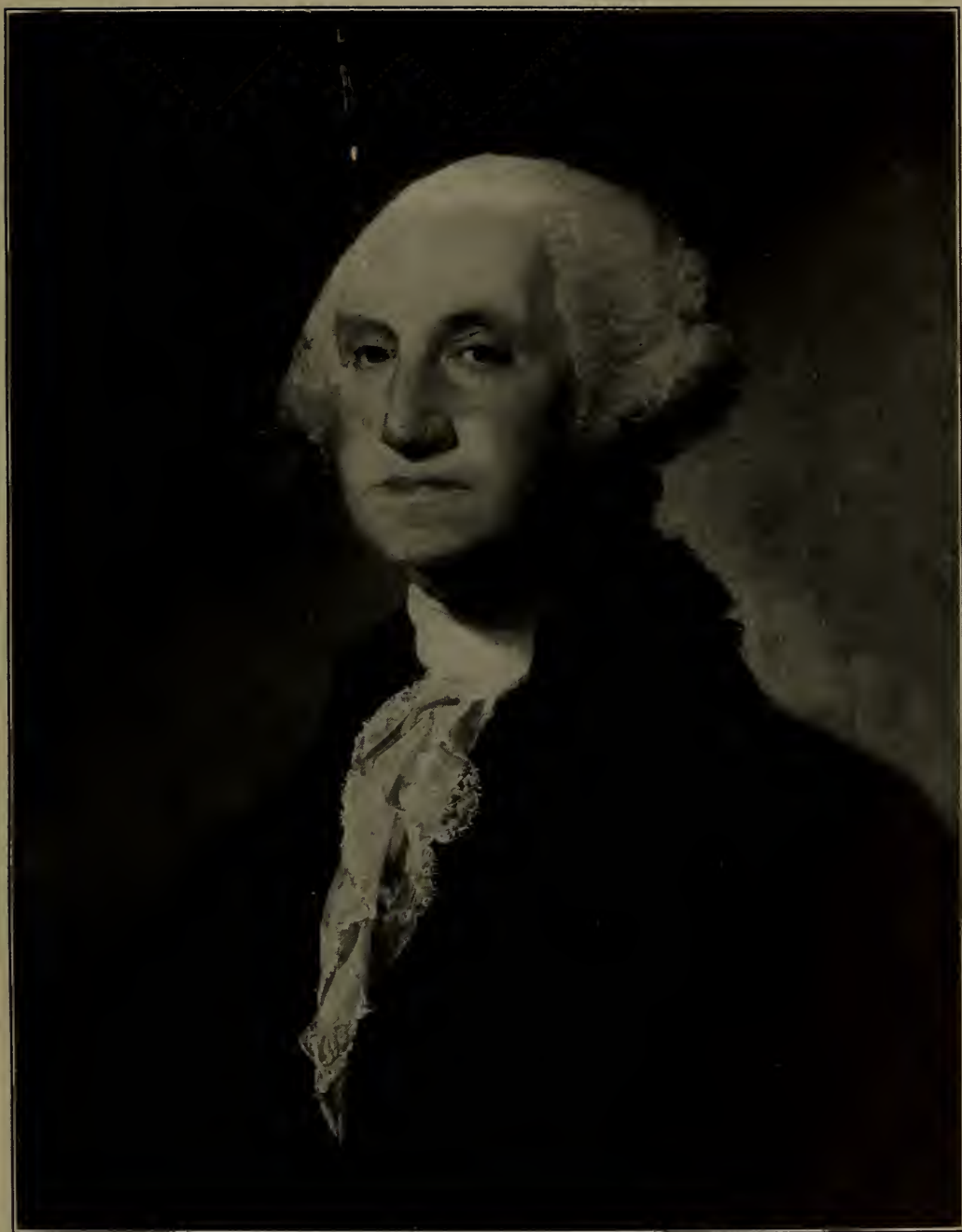
Phila^a June 13. 1775

I wonder'd it was so long before I heard from you. The Packet it seems was brought down to Philadelphia; and carry'd back to Burlington before it came hither. I am glad to learn by your Letters that you are happy in your new Situation, and that tho' you ride out sometimes, you do not neglect your Studies. You are now in that time of Life which is the properest to store your Mind with such Knowledge as is hereafter to be ornamental and useful to you. I confide that you have too much sense to let the Scyfon Ship. The Artisans painted Opportunity as an old Man with Wings to his Feet & a Lookers, a great Lock of Hair on the fore part of his Head, but bald behind; whence comes our old saying, Take Time by the forelock; as much as to say, when it is past, there is no means of putting it back again, as there is no Lock behind to take hold of for that purpose. —

I am sorry your Things have suffer'd so much Damage in their Way to you; and I fear if I
Send

Letter from Dr. Franklin to his Grandson

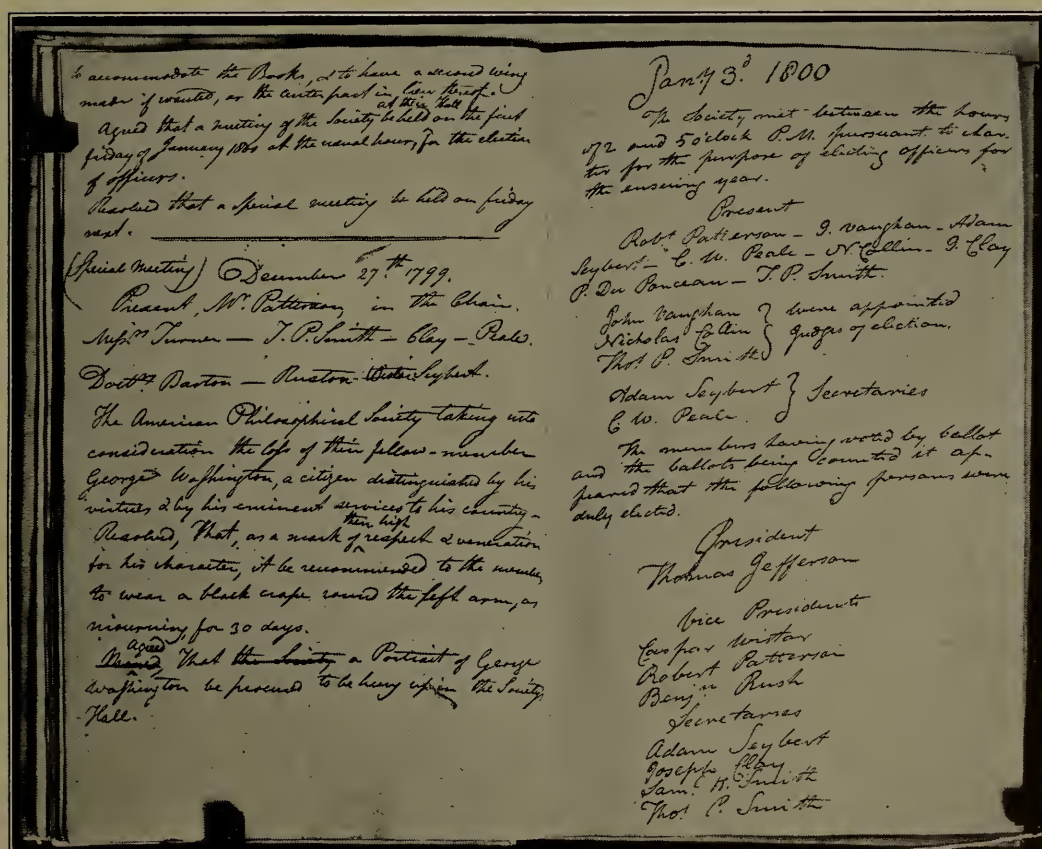
All of these priceless manuscripts are now stored in a so-called vault, built on a floor without supporting wall beneath and with an overweighted library on top, and in a building which is not fireproof, and a menace to them as well as to the adjoining buildings on the State House Square.



GEORGE WASHINGTON
Painted by Gilbert Stuart
By order of the Society, 1799

AND THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

The Society's collection of portraits, busts, maps and engravings is a notable one. It has one of the most valuable and interesting, of all the original portraits of Washington, painted by Gilbert Stuart at the Society's request, and doubly interesting by the fact that the portrait was referred to a Committee of Members to advise the meeting whether it was good, as the ancient minutes record.



Minute Book of The American Philosophical Society

It has a splendid portrait of Jefferson, painted by Thomas Sully, one of the best portraits that Sully ever did.

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

It owns a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, by Charles Willson Peale, a beautiful work of art, which would be most appropriate to display in "Franklin House;" a portrait of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, who succeeded Franklin as President of the Society, also by Charles Willson Peale; portraits of all of the Society's Presidents: Dr. Caspar Wistar, Dr. Robert Patterson, Chief Justice Tilghman, Peter S. Du Ponceau, Robert M. Patterson, Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, Dr. Franklin Bache, Professor Alexander Dallas Bache, Judge John Kent Kane, Dr. George B. Wood, Mr. Frederick Fraley, General Isaac J. Wistar, Dr. Edgar F. Smith and Dr. W. W. Keen, and many of its leading members—a collection that increases in interest and value every year.

Its old building contains portraits of Heckewelder, Priestley, Joseph Henry, Benjamin Rush, Samuel and John Vaughan, Baron von Humboldt, Elisha Kent Kane, Matthew Carey, E. D. Cope, Daniel G. Brinton, J. Peter Lesley, Isaac Lea, Joseph Leidy, William Pepper, Simon Newcomb and Henry C. Lea.

Its collection of busts includes Houdon's Franklin, and one by Houdon of Condorcet, which formerly stood in the salon of the Hotel de la Rochefoucauld in Paris until the French Revolution, when it was removed and given to William Short, Secretary of the Legation when Jefferson was Minister to France, who in turn gave it to the Society. Notable also are busts of Jefferson,



DAVID RITTENHOUSE

President of the Society 1791-1796

Painted by Charles Willson Peale

AND THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Turgot, LaFayette, Alexander Hamilton, Nathaniel Bowditch and Baron Cuvier—all members of the Society.



Franklin's Library Chair

Its historical relics are legion. It owns the chair used by Franklin when the Society met at his house, owing to his failing health, and which was presented by his son-in-law, Richard Bache, shortly after Franklin's death, and has ever since been used as the President's chair at the Society's meetings.

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"



Franklin's Electrical Machine and Glass Tube for
Generating Frictional Electricity

It has Franklin's Electrical Machine and the glass tube with which he developed frictional electricity and which was doubtless employed by him at the earliest period of his discoveries after his famous experiment with the kite and key during the thunder storm.

This venerable Society has not been hiding its light under a bushel, but in a quiet and unassuming way has been fulfilling the purposes of its ancient Charter and doing its utmost "to promote useful knowledge."

AND THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

It holds monthly meetings which are devoted to the consideration of recent advances in knowledge, and its annual general meetings, which last a good part of a week, bring together from all over the country, and indeed from abroad, the most eminent men in various departments of science.



Rittenhouse's Clock, constructed for his Time Observations
in connection with the Transit of Venus in 1769

Its published "Transactions," in 28 quarto volumes, and "Proceedings," in 52 octavo volumes, give the widest currency to its work. The "Transactions" were begun

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

in 1771, and the volume of that date contained reports of its Committees appointed to observe the Transit Venus in 1769, which secured results among the most valuable of any obtained in any part of the world. Since then the Society has published continuously original papers of scientific value which have done not a little to establish science in America on a firm basis and maintain and increase its repute. Its "Proceedings" have been published since 1838. These two serials are sent to, practically, all the scientific Societies of the world and their publications, which are received in exchange, constitute a most valuable feature of the Society's library.

It has under its care for award in recognition of scientific discoveries or as prizes for learned essays, several important funds in trust and others from which it must purchase books for its library.

The Society by its meetings, its publications, and its library, furnishes the opportunity and the stimulus to continue education to its fullest fruition. It may be confidently asserted that at no period in its long existence has it been more active or has it better fulfilled its mission in this respect than now. Of the General Meeting last year, *Popular Science Monthly* in an editorial in its June issue, said: "The papers represent a group of contributions to science which will compare favorably with any that could at the present time be presented before any Society in any country;" and of the ensuing meeting this year, Ex-President Eliot, of

AND THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Harvard University, wrote under date of March 11, 1913, "I have just read the admirable programme for the general meeting of the American Philosophical Society next April and want to congratulate you on it. The Society is certainly promoting effectively all kinds of useful knowledge."

Societies like it devoted to the research of science, cannot command a large income from their members who are usually not employed in gainful pursuits, and for any extraordinary purpose requiring large sums of money must seek help from the City and State.

By an agreement between the Society and the City of Philadelphia, made November 24, 1911, and equally advantageous to both, the City will acquire the Society's Hall on Fifth Street and thereby obtain title to the whole of Independence Square and safeguard the buildings thereon. In exchange therefor, the City will grant to the Society a convenient and suitable site upon the Parkway bounded by Sixteenth Street and Cherry Street, which will be splendid in location and ample in dimensions for all future needs. On this site it is proposed to erect a dignified building, absolutely fireproof, which shall be the home of the Society forever, and at the same time a permanent memorial to Benjamin Franklin, its founder, and thus commemorate for all time his lifelong services to science and to the State and Nation.

Not since 1785, one hundred and twenty-eight years ago, has the Legislature of Pennsylvania made a single grant for the benefit of this Society, and we feel justified in the present emergency in asking the

A PLEA FOR A "FRANKLIN HOUSE"

co-operation of the public for help to save its valuable collections from the dangers which menace them in their present situation, and to provide adequate room for their display and study and for their accommodation and increase.

Pointing to its record of one hundred and eighty-five years in promoting useful knowledge and confident of its ability to maintain that record if provided with a suitable building, it makes this appeal. The new hall which it proposes to erect will be at the same time the home of the oldest scientific body in America, and also a fitting memorial to Pennsylvania's most illustrious citizen. The Society's books and manuscripts, pictures and busts, historical relics and scientific apparatus, in fact, all the collections which it now owns or may hereafter acquire, it proposes shall be forever free, open and accessible to all the citizens of every State in the Union.

